



U.S. HISTORY

NAME _____

DEBATE

The Thirteenth Amendment

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

In 1863 Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation only freed slaves under the control of the Confederate States of America—it did not abolish slavery everywhere. A constitutional amendment was required to accomplish freedom throughout all the states. On January 31, 1865, Congress passed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution - but not all agreed to the change.

The Senate passed the amendment on April 8, 1864, by a vote of 38 to 6. However, just over two months later on June 15, the House failed to pass the amendment, with 93 in favor and 65 against, thirteen votes short of the two-thirds vote needed for passage. Twenty-three members were absent for the roll call, with one abstention. Obviously....it was controversial...

ASSIGNMENT: You will debate the amendment from the perspective of your particular Representative.

[1] You will be assigned a Representative from the 38th U.S. Congress.

[2] You will research the Congressman with the following questions in mind:

Ask yourself:

- What state is your Representative serving? What belief on slavery (or African Americans) would that state hold to?
- What political party is your Rep. from? Where there other parties he was apart before that would influence his vote?
- What personal convictions on slavery did your Rep. have?
- What other influences (family, political, religious, etc.) would affect your vote?

[3] You will write a **SYNOPSIS** of the biography of the Congressman WITH their position on slavery and the amendment.

Type ONE PAGE (500 words) in proper format (INTRO, BODY, CONCLUSION) of:

- Your Representative's history and background, especially in regard to slavery
- Your Representative's belief and perspective on slavery, freedom of slaves in America during this time, and position on the amendment
- Any other information you feel fits the debate (this could include your own perspective, if it compares with your Rep.'s)

SYNOPSIS DUE DATE: Thursday, May 23rd

[4] You will present a **DEBATE** of your Congressman's position on the amendment. [MAKE NOTE CARDS]

- You will only have 2 MINUTES to present. Your thoughts must be concise, exact and persuasive - in a short time period.
- You will only have 1 MINUTE rebuttal

DEBATE DATES: Tuesday & Wednesday, June 4th & 5th

U.S. HISTORY DEBATE - *The Thirteenth Amendment*

CATEGORIES		1	2	3	4	5
30%	Content (Do you know your topic well enough to defend it?)	You have absolutely no idea about your topic.	You only have a very surface understanding of your topic.	You know some details about topic but you do not provide references to support your position and ideas.	You know more details about your topic with some references to support your position and ideas.	You present your topic as an expert and appear totally confident in your presentation.
30%	Debate/Logic (Is there an organization, strategy or logical technique you use in proving your position?)	You have no organization at all in your debate.	There is a little bit of organization in your presentation but the thoughts are inconsistent and randomly written.	Some organized ideas were presented with more consistency and purpose.	There organization with much structure but you are easily directed off target.	You are organized and logical and control the debate.
30%	Synopsis (Can you concisely and clearly explain your position?) DATE: Thu., May 23 rd	Your synopsis is too complicated or not detailed enough to provide details on your debate topic.		There is some clarity and some detail OR not enough detail in your position statement.		You are concise and clear; your opponents know your topic without knowing your strategy of your debate.
5%	Presentation (Do you look professional?) DATE: Tue., Jun 4 th , Wed., Jun 4 th	You slouched, sat on a stool, did not have eye contact, did not project your voice, did not slow down - you did not present well.		You had some presentation skills but because you did not maintain those skills all the time you did not look confident or prepared.		You stood tall, maintained eye contact, projected your voice AND announced your words - you were prepared and confident - a DEBATOR!
5%	Timing (Can you present your ideas within the time allotted each day?)	You went beyond 20 seconds in time.		You went 10 seconds to 20 seconds over in time.		You presented your material in the time permitted.

SOME WEBSITES TO HELP: try these to help you do your research:

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp> - government biography site of congress through history

<http://www.sethkaller.com/13th-amendment/bio-sketch/> - an excellent site with a brief description of the 38th congress

<http://13thamendment.harpweek.com/HubPages/CommentaryPage.asp?Commentary=05Results> - an overview

http://www.law.cornell.edu/anncon/html/amdt13toc_user.html - information on the 13th Amendment